

# **Schools of Linguistics**

A Diachronic Review of Great Linguists and Their Contributions

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|                     |   |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| سرشناسه             | : | اروجی، محمد رضا، ۱۳۵۵ -                                                                                                                                                          |
| عنوان و نام پدیدآور | : | Mohammad Reza Oroji<br>Schools of linguistics: a diachronic review<br>of great linguists and their contributions/<br>Mohammad Reza Oroji, Susan Taghipour, Mohadesse Habib Zade. |
| مشخصات نشر          | : | تهران: هم آواز، ۱۳۹۳ = ۲۰۱۴ م.                                                                                                                                                   |
| مشخصات ظاهری        | : | ۷۴ ص.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| فروست               | : | زبان شناسی                                                                                                                                                                       |
| شابک                | : | ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۷۴۵۴-۰۳-۹                                                                                                                                                                |
| وضعیت فهرست نویسی   | : | فیبا                                                                                                                                                                             |
| یادداشت             | : | انگلیسی.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| آرشیوی عنوان        | : | اسکولز...                                                                                                                                                                        |
| موضوع               | : | زبان انگلیسی -- کتاب‌های قرانت -- زبان‌شناسی                                                                                                                                     |
| موضوع               | : | زبان انگلیسی -- راهنمای آموزشی (عالی)                                                                                                                                            |
| بنیاد روده          | : | تقی‌پور، سوسن، ۱۳۵۰ -                                                                                                                                                            |
| شناسه افزودن        | : | Taghipour, Susan                                                                                                                                                                 |
| شناسه افزوده        | : | حبیب‌زاده، سیده‌محدت، ۱۳۶۰ -                                                                                                                                                     |
| رده بندی کنگره      | : | habib zade, seyyede mohadesse<br>PE۱۱۲۷/الف۹۵۰۳۹۳                                                                                                                                |
| رده بندی دیویی      | : | ۴۲۸/۶۴                                                                                                                                                                           |
| شماره کتابشناسی ملی | : | ۳۵۰۷۴۶۷                                                                                                                                                                          |



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آماده سازی و امور فنی پیش از چاپ: همام قدسی  
چاپ اول: تابستان ۱۳۹۳ • شمارگان: ۵۵۰ • قیمت: ۱۰۰۰ تومان  
لیتوگرافی، چاپ و صحافی: افست گرافیک

ISBN: 978-600-7454-03-9

شابک ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۷۴۵۴-۰۳-۹

نشر هم‌آواز: تهران، خیابان انقلاب، بین بهار و پیچ شمیران، پلاک ۴۰۰

طبقه سوم، شماره ۱۱، کد پستی: ۱۱۴۸۸۷۳۸۴۱

تلفن: ۷۷۵۳۲۹۷۳ دورنگار: ۷۷۵۱۳۷۱۵

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تمامی حقوق این اثر برای ناشر محفوظ است. تکثیر یا تولید مجدد به هر شکلی بدون اجازه مکتوب ناشر ممنوع است.

In The Name of God  
The most compassionate – The most merciful

## Introduction

The main objective of this book has been to provide the university students of Linguistics or MA candidates of LINGUISTICS with an authentic, comprehensive and reliable source of information. The book is based on the three most fundamental linguistics books of *A Short History of Linguistics* by R.H. Robins (1979), *The Origin and Development of Linguistic Theories* by Meshkatod Dini (1998), and *Theoretical Linguistics* by Dabir-Moghadam (2000). Attempts have been made to render the whole volume as concise and informative.

It should be said that this book has been taught several times as the main course book in our classes before publication. Therefore, it has been re-edited and revised repetitively and it has been attempted to remove any likely errors and misspellings.

The book starts with Ancient Era, incorporating Greeks (Sophists, Stoics, and Alexandrians) and Romans. This Era is followed by Medieval Era and post-Medieval Era including Scholastic Philosophers and comparative Philology. Afterwards, the Modern Era is discussed, encapsulating Formalism (both Structuralism and Generativism), functionalism, and Cognitivism.

The authors have devotedly tried to acquaint the students with the schools of linguistics. The writers have managed to present a concise overview of each main period in the history of linguistic so that the readers will become acquainted with the most well-known philosophers and linguists who have contributed strenuously to the field and science of linguistics. All comments are most welcome.

To Our Dearest Teacher

,who acquainted us with the basics of Linguistics,

Dr. Mohammad Dabir Moghadam

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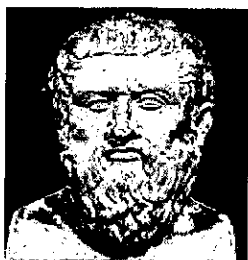
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# Schools of Linguistics

Greek: (5 B.C)



Plato



Aristotle

## Sophists

**Plato:** (A naturalist) : In one of his “treatis” called “Cratylus”, he talked about language. He tried to find the origin of languages. He also claimed there was a natural relationship between an object (form) and its name (meaning). Words are indeed naturally appropriate to the things. In order to prove his belief, he stuck to false etymology. He believed it was a job of an etymologist to find the connection between words (forms) and their meanings. The only reason that he had, was onomatopoeia (interjections like ouch, Ah, animals’ sounds , ...). In his book called “Sophist”, he could divide the sentence into parts: nouns and verbs.

**Aristotle:** (A Conventionalist): He believed names or words (forms) stand for things (meaning) only through *convention*. No natural relationship between form and meaning does exist.